



**Draft Minutes of the
Miracle Mile Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting – 26th meeting**

February 16, 2005, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Flowing Wells Irrigation District
3901 N. Fairview
Tucson, Arizona 85705

E-II-5240.18.6.1.2

CAB Members Present: Gary Abrams, David Crockett, George Hembree, Manuel Ramirez

CAB Members Absent: Netty Buras, Pauline Massie, Jan Randolph

ADEQ Staff Present: Matt Doolen, Project Manager; SRO; Eileen Palese, Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO

Members of the Public Present: Lynne Hubbard, Gary Darling

The meeting began at 6:40 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Co-chair Gary Abrams conducted introductions of the CAB members and public participants.

2. Approval of Minutes for 8/19/04 CAB Meeting

(The minutes were approved later in the meeting after the arrival of enough CAB members to constitute a quorum.) Dave Crockett motioned to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2004, meeting; Manuel Ramirez seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the CAB--all in favor; none opposed.

3. Site Investigation Update/Q&A

Matt Doolen provided an update to the CAB on the routine monitoring results. He said that due to budget constraints, well monitoring is now being performed every six months instead of every three months. He showed the contours of the TCE plume in regional aquifer on an overhead. He said that they were prevented from sampling the IRA-2, IRA-8 and IRA-1 wells because the submersible pumps, installed in 1998, needed replacing. Those pumps were replaced and samples taken last week, so the results will be added to the graph in the future to show the concentrations, but there does not appear to be any significant change to the plume.

He said they are continuing to observe how the concentrations are changing in the monitor wells. He said the central plume area is decreasing in concentrations, but some of the wells on the west and northwest side are showing an increase in concentrations. This could be due to the historic groundwater flows and the recent pumping from drinking water production wells.

He showed a graph of the chromium contamination which is still present in the regional aquifer, but he said the concentrations have not increased significantly. The higher concentrations of this contaminant are in the area of IRA-2 and IRA-9 wells, and are present in the regional aquifer above the maximum contaminant level (MCL), but it seems to be isolated to only monitor wells; it has not shown up in production wells. He said they will continue to monitor the chromium concentrations.

Matt Doolen reported on the sampling which took place at the Abrams Airborne Manufacturing, Inc., facility in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9. He said Abrams Airborne Manufacturing is on the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) list which dictates a process where a decision is made whether or not further action is needed at a site. He said the EPA was interested in performing field work on soil and groundwater in this area. ADEQ created a sampling plan that EPA reviewed and approved, and used WQARF contractors to do the work, which began last summer. Four monitor wells were installed in the perched aquifer at the south edge of the property. He pointed out all well locations on a map. He said what they are looking for are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals. He said passive soil gas sampling to a depth of three feet was also done. He showed photos of the rig used to sample and the areas where sampling took place.

He said they also investigated areas inside the plant and under the concrete floor. He explained the sampling methods and equipment used. He displayed a map that showed results for four different passive soil gas sampling rounds taken over the past five years at the plant. The results were comparable to other areas of the plume; nothing that looked like an anomaly. He also showed a graph illustrating combined soil sampling data and areas that showed exceedences of compounds above allowed background concentration levels. He said the EPA looks at concentrations of compounds that are three times over the background level. He said Abrams Airborne did some sampling in 1995 in the plating area of the plant, and they found one sample that was well above the background. He said although more work may need to be done regarding the chromium, it is not posing a major risk to the aquifer. He said that there is no data available between Abrams Airborne and the Spring Joint facility across the street.

EPA will now perform a rigorous quality assurance/quality control data evaluation. ADEQ's Site Assessment Unit will draft an expanded site investigation report that will go back to EPA for finalization. Potential risk will be examined and whether any further action is warranted.

4. Flowing Wells Irrigation District Update

David Crockett presented information to the CAB regarding the new MCL for arsenic in groundwater. He said the old standard was 50 micrograms per liter; the new will be 10

micrograms per liter. Water providers need to be in compliance with this new standard by January 23, 2006. He said that the Flowing Wells Irrigation District (FWID) has two wells in operation that won't meet this new standard and they happen to be in the vicinity of the contaminant plume. He handed out information about the wells and an aerial photo of the site. He said there is no space available for a treatment system at one of the wells. What is planned is to connect both wells by a pipeline so that only one treatment plant will need to be built. He said they were detecting low levels of VOCs in well number 75, so it has been shut off for quite a few years. The same situation exists for well 70, which is only used during peak demand in the summer.

He said these wells will be needed in the future, so FWID has met with ADEQ to find a way to bring the wells into compliance and to treat the water for arsenic and for VOCs. Malcolm Pernie was hired by FWID to consider four treatment methods. They chose absorption as the most appropriate method, which uses a granular iron media; arsenic adheres to the iron and can then be removed. He provided a diagram of the system. He said they hope to have the final design completed April-June of 2005, and to begin construction July-November 2005, with installation in December. Startup should take place by January '06.

Matt Doolen said that it made good sense to build a treatment system that would address both arsenic and VOCs in the groundwater. He said granulated active carbon technology has been successfully used for a long time for groundwater treatment. He said this is a good way to ensure that the drinking water remains free of VOCs. ADEQ's consultants are working with FWID consultants to make sure all systems are compatible. A draft agreement is being written by ADEQ and will be presented to FWID in a few weeks. It will list what the state and FWID will be responsible for. He said the system will be in place for many years.

Matt Doolen addressed WQARF funding and said it appeared it will hold up though the current budget reviews. He reviewed the process for the finalization of the Remedial Investigation and the Feasibility Study. He said that based on where the plume is located and the groundwater flow direction and concentrations, ADEQ sees the FWID treatment system as a good way to get a head start on the final remedy for this WQARF site.

5. Call to the Public

No one had a comment.

6. CAB Membership Recruitment Discussion

Gary Abrams led a discussion on ways to recruit additional CAB members. Eileen Palese said that David Crockett was going to hand out CAB membership applications and Miracle Mile WQARF Site Fact Sheets at an upcoming FWID public meeting.. She said that he also offered to provide the FWID mailing list to ADEQ so that a letter could be sent from the CAB encouraging membership. CAB members agreed that this would be a good idea. Eileen Palese asked for a volunteer to write the letter. The CAB suggested that she write and mail it for the CAB. She said she would base it on a previous newsletter the CAB wrote. She asked the CAB if they had any other suggestions to increase membership. They discussed possible options.

Matt Doolen said that the work at Abrams Airborne and Spring Joint has now been completed, and most of the blanks are filled in that were in the draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report which can now be finalized. The target date is May or June of 2005. He said there will then be a 90 day comment period. The RI will also include a Land and Water Use study. A Remedial Objectives public meeting will be held and a report will follow which outlines the cleanup goals. Current plans are that this would take place in early 2006.

7. Continuation of CAB Vision Statement Discussion

Jan Randolph was not at the meeting so the CAB decided to hold this agenda item until the next meeting.

8. Other Administrative Business

No other business was raised.

9. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The next meeting of the Miracle Mile Community Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2005, at the Flowing Wells Irrigation District, 3901 N. Fairview, in Tucson. Call Eileen Palese, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, at (520) 628-6712 for more information.

10. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 7:25 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tape(s), or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.